



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert D. Graham  
Board Chair

Laura J. O'Rourke  
Chair Elect

Serena Simmons Connelly  
Secretary

Elizabeth A. Healy  
James C. Ho  
Stephanie Erwin Hunt  
Hind Jarrah, PhD.  
Rabbi Asher Knight  
Julie Lowenberg  
Tina E. Patterson  
Almaz Woldeab

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Patricia Cook, MD  
Don Glendenning  
Past President

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenneth Z. Altshuler, M.D.  
Cecilia Boone  
Steve & Barb Durham  
Lauren Embrey  
Lisa Hembry  
Amb. Swanee Hunt  
Sarah Losinger  
The Hon. Ann Margolin  
Michael Meadows  
Caren H. Prothro  
Harold & Annette Simmons  
Lekha Singh

STAFF

William Holston  
Executive Director

Christine Cooney Mansour  
Legal Director

Patricia Melton  
Director, Marketing & Revenue  
Development

Melissa Weaver  
Attorney, Women and Children's  
Program

Martha Gonzalez  
Attorney, Asylum Program

Sarah Pahl  
Legal Assistant & Case  
Management Coordinator

Kristina Morales  
Legal Assistant, Women &  
Children's Program

Zainab Abdulqader  
Client Services Administrator

Rosangela Reyes  
Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Vega, Vista  
Volunteer Coordinator

Jeanette Khan, Vista  
Social Media Coordinator

American Society of Trial Consultants  
1941 Greenspring Drive  
Timonium, MD 21093  
[ascoffice@astcweb.org](mailto:ascoffice@astcweb.org)

Dear Sir/Madam,

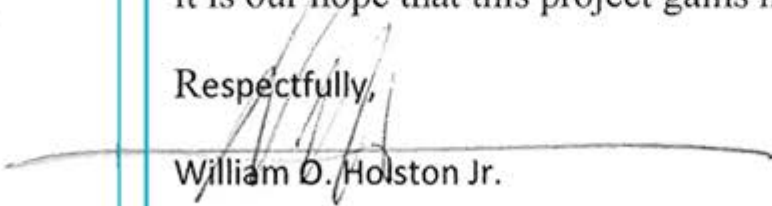
**I wish to commend the ASTC DFW Pro Bono Initiative** for their invaluable pro bono assistance of Human Rights Initiative of North Texas.

**Since 1999, Human Rights Initiative of North Texas has been** one of the leading agencies in the country that helps immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. HRI is the only agency in North Texas that provides free legal representation to those individuals who have suffered human rights abuses in their homelands and have credible asylum cases. Our clients are persecuted Christians from Egypt and Iran, pro-democracy activists from Ethiopia and women fleeing female genital mutilation from Guinea. Many of our clients are torture survivors, speak English as a second language and are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Through our pro bono model, we provide free legal services through an extensive network of lawyers. Many of our lawyers are not immigration lawyers and several of the volunteers are not trial lawyers. It has been extremely valuable for a pro bono case to receive the benefit of the decades of experience of a professional trial consultant.

We have been thrilled that the ASTC DFW Pro Bono Initiative has been providing pro bono trial consultant services. The most critical aspect of the client's case is to be able to testify to the things that happened to them credibly. The central committee of Allison Bennett, Emily McDonald, Ryan Malphurs, and Ric Dexter have all provided essential consultant services which have helped our clients successfully tell their stories. It is no exaggeration to say that they are a critical component of our efforts to literally save lives. We hope this is the beginning of a long relationship and it is our hope that this project gains national momentum.

Respectfully,

  
William D. Holston Jr.

Executive Director